

**Chapter VIII****The  
US Response**

To meet the threat posed by the continuing buildup of Soviet military power, the US, in coordination with allies and friends who share common security interests, is following a dual approach. The US has established strategies, policies, and programs to improve our forces and those of our allies and friends to deter Soviet aggression in all its forms. At the same time, we seek to secure a more stable military balance through the negotiation of significant, verifiable force reductions.

This chapter provides a brief overview of US defense policy and strategy designed to deter the threat of Soviet military power, as well as the aggressive designs of other states and groups hostile to our interests. There is also discussion of the forces and programs we have deployed or initiated to enable us to meet our defense strategy.

US defense policy is guided by the necessity to maintain nuclear deterrence while pursuing research into strategic defenses. It seeks to maintain deterrence against conventional attacks while combating the more ambiguous forms of aggression characteristic of low-intensity conflict. The US is enhancing military stability, where possible, through negotiated arms reductions and by utilizing enduring US strengths to exploit long-term Soviet weaknesses through competitive strategies.

More detailed accounts of these programs can be found in the Fiscal Year 1988 *Annual Report to the Congress* by the Secretary of Defense and the *United States Military Posture FY 1988* prepared by the Joint Staff.

*The new HOKUM attack helicopter, now in flight-testing, will give the Soviets a significant rotary-wing, air-to-air combat capability for which no Western counterpart exists. Deployment of the HOKUM and HAVOC (lower right) attack helicopters will further underscore the capabilities and the challenge of Soviet military power.*

